Annual Report
of the
Seamen and Soldiers Com.

1838

The day in which we live, is emphatically one which calls for Christian benevolence & Christian effort. - Other days, sparely have furnished their opportunities for doing good. - But never in the history of Church have there been so many openings for Christian effort, so many opportunities for successful labour in preparing the way of the Lord as the present. — Among these openings for Benevolence, there are scarcely any more flattering in the prospect, & which promise greater good, than the cause of Seamen. — It is well known that the moral condition of this class of our fellow men dark and dismal as it was, has been passed by and considered almost hopeless. and that until quite lately, there have been no systematic efforts made to rescue them from their sinful and degraded condition. But why was it that the Sailor should so long fail to enlist that christian sympathy, in which almost every other class of men, have shared? Why must efforts be made for almost every continent, and Island of the sea, while Seaman, whose agency was indispensable to such efforts, must themselves be left in degradation and ignorance? — The impression has been too general that it would be almost useless to put forth an effort for his reform. - The very fact that he would embark in so daring & hazardous an enterprise, has been taken for proof a trait of Character so wild and desperate as to be beyond control. - That he should break through all the ties which home, and friend, and country could constitute, & subject himself to the perils of the Ocean thus, not only depriving himself of moral & religious society, but placing himself, where passion would be unrestrained, & example would corrupt & debase, such a course, has been considered almost incompatible with the existence of those original susceptibilities, in man which render his moral improvement possible. — Again, the fact that the Sailor has no permanent location, has been a reason why he has been thus neglected. - His home is upon the bosom of the Ocean; -

He is located, only with reference to the Bark upon he rides, - while his direction changes with every breeze. — The difficulties of providing for the spiritual wants of a class of men who have no permanent location have been many and great. - And it was not until benevolence had called in ingenuity to her aid, that any system of means was adopted for this purpose.

But we proceed to give some account of what has been done the past year for this class of our fellow-men, commencing with Foreign Operations

This far this report was written by C. Leavenworth. The remainder was composed by J. Shelps Jr. but during his sickness was transcribed by various hands and read before the Society by Leavenworth April 30. 1838

Foreign Operations.

Canton. — This was the first Foreign station occupied by the A.S.F.S. And in reviewing the interests of the Seamans cause here, it becomes the mournful duty of your Com. to record the death of its first, and only Chaplain. Since our last Annual Report, the intelligence has reached us, that the Rev. Mr. Stevens died at Singapore Jan 5th 1837. — He left this country in the early part of 1832. having engaged to act as Chaplain at the post of Canton for 3 years, with the privilege of remaining after that, at Canton or some neighbouring station, as Missionary under the care of the American, Board. — As soon as he arrived, he commenced his labours at the Ships anchorage at Whampoa. A letter from the Missionaries at Canton, gives a pleasing account of the assiduity and dilligence with which he prosecuted his labours Though he lived at Canton, he visited Whampoa every week, distributing Bibles & Tracts, proclaiming Christ, to all he met, and endeavouring to allure them to his love, by his example as well as his precept. He was particularly attentive to the sick, of whom he always found many in port. — It is impossible to estimate the good effected in this way. That much good was effected, none can doubt — When Mr. Stevens commenced his labours there, it was with great difficulty that he could obtain permission to preach on board of any vessel. So strong was the prejudice against Religion. — But by self denying exertions, & untiring efforts, so completely was this prejudice overcome, that he was received with uniform kindness, and encouraged in his work. The B. Flagg was hoisted every Sabbath during his residence there. — At the expiration of 3 years, he at the request of the Society he consented to occupy a part of his time in the Service of Seamen, until his successor should arrive. He had made 2 Missionary voyges along the coast, and was on his 3d. when he arived at Singapore ill of a fever, which, unexpectedly to his Physician & friends, terminated in his death. — The Missionary wrote immediately to the A. S. F. S. urging the importance of the station, & requesting that a successor to Mr Stevens might be sent without delay. They say, — The good fruits of your Chaplains labours are already beginning to appear, but if the Station is left unoccupied they will never come to maturity. — In our last Report we stated, that the Rev. J. W. Newton, of Norwich. Conn. had been appointed to succeed Mr Stevens, and was expected to sail very soon,

But contributions to the Society having failed, the Board have become so involved that they were unable to send out Mr. Stevens. and thus Canton, the only Port through which China can be entered, is without a Chaplain. - Say the Missionaries, "multitudes of Seamen, who throng that Port, and who became acquainted with Mr Stevens, on their return, anxiously enquire after their friend the Chaplain, - But they must stretch out their hands in vain for some one to break to them the Bread of life, until the embarressments of the Society are relieved, so that they can resume operations. —

Siam & Singapore. - Dr. Bradley, writing from Bankok. urges the importance of sending a Chaplain to that station. — The Society have employed the Missionaries as far as they could do it, to attend to the Bethel cause at this place. — But the Missionaries, says Dr. Bradly, "all have pressing duties of another kind, which will not often allow them to take care of the souls of Seaman, - But, he adds, "the duty of sending a Chaplain to Bankok as it may, there can be no doubt, that the Sailors who touch at Singapore should certainly have one, - To show the importance of this as a Missionary Station, and the multitudes that would here be brought under the influence of a devoted chaplain could one be sent, it may be proper to state, - that the Island of Singapore, which is 30 Miles in length & 15 in breadth. 20 years ago was entirely uninhabited, except occasionly by Malay Pirates. But now the seaport town contains upwards of 25,000 inhabitants, — About 16 years sine, it became known to the English, and since that time, has become the most important Commercial Port in the East India Islands. — For the last 7 years, says the London Commercial Journal, its exports & imports have averaged nearly 20 Millions of pounds Sterling per annum. - It is in the direct raut between Persia, Arabia & Hindostan, on the one side, - and the numerous, rich Indian Islands, and Siam Tonquin, China, & Australasia on the other, - "It seems to be regarded, says the same Paper, "as a kind of mutral ground, where all nations may traffic, and accordingly its port is filled with vessels of every description, and country and size, from the largest and well equiped European or American East Indian, to the clumsy junk of the Chinese, or the frail canoe of the Maylay, which brings Birds of Paradise, or gold-dust from the shores of Borneo or New Guinea, - Nothing but the want of means, prevents the Society from sending a Chaplain to this place. —

Sandwich Islands. One of the most ~~important~~ prosperous as well as important stations at present supported by the A. S. F. society is situated at the port of Honolulu on the island of Oahu. Revd Mr Diell is their chaplain here. Almost all the ships of the whale fisheries of the Pacific enter this port once or twice and sometimes more during each cruise. Mr Diell sends an annual report to the society, the last of which published in the Magazine of Oct. last gives us many interesting and encouraging facts. In the fall season, he says, there were 62 whale ships visited Honolulu. 21 of these belonged to New Bedford and 9 to Nantucket and most of the others were from the W. S. A liberal subscription was raised principally by ship masters for repairing the seamens chapel. Regular services were held on the sabbath part of the time on ship-board and at other times in the chapel. Sabbath schools and bible classes have been held with but little interruption on sabbath afternoon. Monthly concert and meeting every Thursday evening had been held statedly. Besides this a meeting had been held every wednesday evening in the houses of some of the mission family. "In many of our evening meetings" says Mr D. "we have been permitted to hear seamen bear testimony from their own experience to the blessedness of the christians hope and exhort their fellow seamen to secure the same blessedness to themselves." The reading room had become the favourite resort of sailors and their library had received valuable additions. 215 bibles 84 Testaments supplied by the A. B. S. and 9000 pages of Tracts from the A. T. S. had been distributed during the year. The cause of temperance Mr. Diell reports is gaining ground. "A temperance boarding house has been in successful operation some time" still intemperance is their great foe. The ship masters have petioned to the king not to grant licenses. but as yet there is no prospect of its being granted. It will be remembered that the sale of intoxicating liquor is prohibited in all the Sandwich islands except Oahu. On the whole says the report "it has been a year of encouragement." "There is reason to hope that to some seamen this last year has proved the acceptable year of the Lord." He then mentions several cases of hopeful conversion which time will not allow us to dwell upon. "We cannot leave this station however without noticing some recent intelligence which has been received by the Soc. and spread before the public generally through the sailors Magazine. We refer to the organization of a church at that place. It is called the "Oahu Bethel Church and consists of 8 members. They have chosen the Revd John Diell for their pastor.

This was an important step, & it is hoped that it will result in much good. After the organization of the Church divine service was held every evening in the Chapel for some time. The meetings were attended with much seriousness and anxiety, but from the nature of the congregations, which were continually changing & leaving Port before a time was given for a trial of their religious impressions, it is impossible to specify results. The Confession of Faith & form of Government adopted by this Church, do not differ materially from the usual forms adopted by the Orthodox Churches of our own land.

Sailaina.

This is another of the principal islands of the Sandwich groups. The principal Port is Maui. This Port next to that of Honolulu is the most frequented by whale-Ships of any Port in the Pacific Ocean. From 85 to 90 whale-ships annually enter this Port, & this number is every year increasing. The Society has not had a regular Chaplain at this Port, but they have had an agency - supports a reading-room & have done much for the cause of the Sailor, through the Rev. Mr Spaulding, formerly missionary of the A. Board at that place. Mr S— was obliged to return on account of his health. He preached to Seamen every Sabbath while there, & in his report to the Seamen's Friend's Society, states that much good had been done. They had resolved to build a Chapel so soon as funds could be raised. The expense was estimated at 1400 dollars, & a subscription had been opened among Ship-masters for this purpose, but they expected to obtain aid principally from the A. S. F. Society. Instead however of being able to render them assistance, the Society has been obliged to cease doing the little they had formerly done. The Station is therefore left entirely without assistance.

Mr Bicll's & Mr Spaulding's letters both give us many accounts of shipwrecks which occur in the Pacific Ocean principally among the Whalefisheries, & which are caused principally from a want of sufficient knowledge of the shoals rocks & islands with which many parts

of that ocean are filled. In our report two years ago (!)
your Committee mentioned that the Gov.t of the United
States contemplated sending out an exploring expedition
for the purpose of making new surveys of these dangerous
waters, so as to rectify the Charts of the Pacific, & thus afford
safety as well as encouragement to that part of the
world. Your committee are gratified in being able to state
that congress still has this subject under consideration
and many confidently expect that such an Expedition
will yet be sent out. We regret however to add that
our respected countryman, who "spent 4 years in Great Britain"
and who had been appointed Chaplain and Historian
to this Expedition, has been compelled to resign.
We have not yet heard who has been appointed in his place.

Batavia on the Island of Java.

This Station is also
occupied by Missionaries of the American Board, who
conduct Bethel operations. They had preached
every Sabbath with much apparent good.
We have, (in this country) but an imperfect idea of the vast
amount of business done on the great waters in that
part of the world. The Missionaries forwarded
to the S. of F. Society, on account of the shipping of that
port, from which it appears that 117 vessels of
different descriptions entered that port in one month.
If this is the average number as the Missionaries
say, there are 1404 vessels enter that port every year
which is only 600 less than entered the port of New York
in 1837— And but about 190 less than entered
the port of Boston the last year. So that the
commerce of that port is but little less than that
of Boston and considerably larger than that
of Philadelphia —

Calcutta.

In the last annual Report of the A. S. F. I. they
state that they have pledged themselves to the Bethel Committee
of Calcutta, to pay their proportion of the expence of supporting
a Chaplain at that place. —

This pledge. the Society has failed to redeem for want of funds nevertheless the Bethel cause is prospering in Calcutta. Within the last year they have established a sailors home. the object of which is. says the Prospectus. to suppress crimping & all the evils connected with it, to which owners commanders Officers & crews are subject in Calcutta

Bombay.

At Bombay also a sailors home has been established within the last year & preaching to seamen conducted by the missionaries.

Cape of Good Hope.

The Revd Mr Pears has been laboring here with much success for two years past. He is a Presbyterian minister of the Scotch Church & was for some time connected with the South Africa College. As his duties in this Institution required but part of his time, & yet afforded him the means of subsistence; & exemplifying the true missionary spirit. he devoted most of his time to laboring among seamen and preaching the Gospel to them: & though his connection with the College has ceased he still labors among the seamen. & this without reward. The Committee of the South Africa Instruction Society, have written to the British & Foreign Sailors Society and also to the A.S.F.S. earnestly requesting them to sustain Mr Pears in his self-denying labor for seamen at that place. It is to be hoped that this call will not be disregarded by those who love the cause of the Redeemer.

Cadiz.

The Revd Mr Lyon a Wesleyan Missionary from London has been for sometime conducting Bethel operations at this Port. He holds divine service every Sabbath morning at the British consul's. & every afternoon on Ship-board. His zeal & devotedness to the cause is manifest from the fact. that notwithstanding the constant change of the place of divine service from one ship to another, on account of their constantly leaving Port still during the whole year he has preached every Sabbath except three.

Havre Havre

Havre

This is the sixth year that the A.S.F.S. have supported a Chaplain at this Station. During much of this time, he has been supported under many & great discouragements. These however have chiefly been of a pecuniary nature — and they have never been greater than during the last year.
In June last the Society being unable to send to their Chaplain the Rev.d Mr Sawtell sufficient for his support: he came to the conclusion that he must shut up the Chapel & return to America: he accordingly notified the Society of this determination. Previous to this he had endeavoured to raise some money there to relieve his immediate wants, until he should receive aid from the Society; but this in Mr S. own words "was impossible"; as it were the prevailing opinion there that all Americans had failed from the highest functionary down to the lowest operator. Providentially however he received assistance from some ship.-officers; principally from those of the Ships Alice of New-York: which ultimately led him to a different course. He determined to go to London & beg for aid. He went and was rec.d with the greatest cordiality by the friends of seamen in that City. The British & Foreign S. S. voted him 20 £ & recommended his cause to the Christian community. He raised in London about 170 £ which enabled him to return & relieve himself & the station from embarrassment; so that he could once more resume his labors for the spiritual welfare of seamen. In Mr Sawtell's letter to the Soc.y on his return to Havre he says: "In all my travels I never met with nobler spirits than in London. Were it not for the appearance of drawing invidious distinctions, I could mention congregations, families & individuals whose benevolence in this matter is above all praise, & who deserve the lasting remembrance & gratitude of our Soc.y" From a late letter from the same we make the following extract —
"Great has been the change within the last few months. The storm is blown over. the night is past. & the morning begins to dawn. Our New Chapel which a short time since was bearing down under heavy seas upon a lee-shore is now upon a wide ocean with a fair breeze & all her canvass spread to the wind. No debts now remain against her unpaid except

the debt of Gratitude we owe to God. which can never be cancelled. We have of a truth found him a refuge in the storm & a very present help in time of trouble. The location of our New Ch. open is found to be just the thing, & gives satisfaction both to citizens & Seamen. & what is more we have it filled with attentive hearers. My health is good so that I have regularly preached twice on the Sabbath and held two stated meetings in the week. Our reading room is open every evening & our Library the last year has increased from a hundred fifty to 300 vols.

Marseilly.

At this Station the Revd. Mr Ely had just commenced his labors at our last report. He obtained permission from the Civil Authorities & aided by the American & British Consuls & other friends of the cause there. he had succeeded in hiring & fitting up a house for Public worship: & had commenced preaching in it. Though his congregation was small at first, it gradually increased, & there was every prospect of with the divine blessing, of his being eminently useful in that City — not only to Sailors, but to the multitudes that throng'd that populous city. with no one to guide them or point them to the door of Mercy. "Forests of Shipping" says Mr Eli "continually filled that harbor — thousands of Strangers & scores of thousands of inhabitants, who search for riches but who know nothing & care nothing for the enduring riches beyond the skies. From such a field of labor as this Mr Eli during the last year has been recalled by the Soc. for want of funds to support him —

Smyrna

Here too within the last year the bethel flag has been struck & the field given up to the enemy.

Cronstadt. The Port of St. Petersburgh.

In our last report we had the pleasure of stating, that the Society had determined to send a Chaplain to this station & that Mr Webster had been ordained to the Gospel Ministry

for this purpose. We have only to add, that Mr Webster sailed from Boston on the 2d inst. of May last & arrived at Cronstadt after a pleasant voyage of ten weeks. Since that time he has been laboring with apparent success among the Seamen & also in part as missionary in that city. Mr W. writes. That "the Emperor Nicholas is undoubtedly more in favor of the general diffusion of knowledge of freedom & of free Institutions than is generally supposed by those who fear his power. or are too remote to seek for definite information." Mr W. finds no opposition in his way, but on the contrary is greatly encouraged in his labors. He has forwarded a full report of his labors there, but it arrived too late for us to make any extracts at this time—

Havanna—

Some little effort has been made to benefit Seamen in this Port, but without much effect. This Station is wholly under the care & supervision of his Holiness the Pope (!!!); & so long as that withering Superstition prevails, no encouragement can be expected in any efforts to do good in that place. Ships which have spent the Sabbath in that Port & have desired to have divine service, have been afraid to have the Bethel flag hoisted even on their own Ships. & they have been compelled to hold their worship privately, for fear of incurring the wrath of the Romanists — Such obstacles as these however must eventually vanish away before the approaching light of the Sun of righteousness. The Port of Havanna has many & great advantages for Bethel operations — the harbor is small so that Ships lie near together — always contains many American & British vessels & a multitude of small craft — Should a prudent & judicious Chaplain be sent to this port, there is no doubt but that in the hands of God he might be of eminent service to the souls of thousands —

Rio Janeiro. — The same cause which has during the last year, left Canton, Marseilles, Smyrna, without a Chaplain, and has withheld aid from Calcutta, Sailors and N. Orleans, has also deprived this important place of a devoted and useful Chaplain, The Rev. C.M. Johnson,

who was labouring under the care of the A. S. F. Society in the port & City of Rio — was recalled last Summer. — A very interesting Report of his labours there, was published in the Sailors Magazine, for Jan. Feb. & March. — When Mr Johnson first went to Rio — it was rather to explore the ground, and report, whether it would be advisable to establish a Chaplain at that place. — After labouring there for some time, he became more and more convinced that not only the cause of Seamen, but the wants a City containing at least, 200,000 inhabitants, and destitute of a single Protestant minister, called loudly for some one, who should point them to the way of life. — He therefore determined to return to the U. States, and report to the Society the wants of the place. Previous to this time however, Rio Janeiro, had not been entirely without instruction. There were several pious Merchants, from the U. S. & from England, who were very anxious to have the Gospel preached to them, and had several times obtained the services of British or American Chaplains, who were on board the men of war, which are frequently in that port. — They had also maintained stated Prayer-meetings, and meetings on the Sabbath, at which Sermons were read. But what were these feeble efforts, in a city of 200,000. inhabitants? — Just as Mr. Johnson, was leaving, the Rev. Mr Justin Spalding, Missionary of the Methodist Epis Church, arived & entered directly into the field. — Thus, during Mr Johnson's absence to the U. States, the preaching of the Gospil was not suspended. — The society determined to send Mr. Johnson back to Rio. — As soon therefore as he could make arrangements, he embarked with his family, to that field of labour, in which he expected to spend his days. — On his arrival at Rio he commenced his work with a view to extensive & and permanent usefulness, both among Sailors, and on land. — He preached every Sabbath, on ship-board, and in the evening, he preached regularly in the City. He established Prayer-meetings, & Sabbath Schools, in different parts of the city, in connexion with Mr Spalding, and lectured alternately with him, in different parts of the city. —

These lectures were becoming more and more solemn, and the number that attended was increasing every week.— Mr Johnson had procured a house & purchased furniture for a permanent settlement, and was pursuing the objects of his mission, when, to adopt his own words, "your letter of recall arrived."— What feelings it awakened, I cannot well describe.- Had you told us, that we were unworthy to occupy such a station, and unfit for its duties,- not possessed of such faith in God,- such zeal for his honour,- such love for the Sailor,— and other fellow-sinners, as would qualify us for success,— this we could have understood.— But to say that we must return to the U. States, because the churches can no longer furnish the means of support,— this was indeed almost incomprehensible!— It is hardly necessary to speak of expectation frustrated, and of hopes that were crushed.— Our acquaintance with the Language & people of Rio- was rapidly increasing,— and the whole country seemed to present every day a wider & more interesting field of labour for the Philanthropist & the Christian.— There seemed to be however, no alternative, and we prepared to leave, with far heavier hearts, than when we left our native land,— Yet, had but one cheering word come from our friends in the U. States, informing us that an effort would be made to sustain us,- it would have been enough.— We would have remained.

New Orleans.— In our last annual report we had but little to encourage us, in the intelligence we had received from this place.— But this year your committee are gratified in being able to lay before you more pleasing news,— Although, as has been before intimated, the S. F. Society, were unable to assist them, the friends of Seamen in New-Orleans have not been discouraged.— On the contrary, they have seen the necessity of greater exertion among themselves, and the blessing of God has co-

dently attended their efforts. — Through the exertion of the young men who felt an interest in Bethel operations, the Sabbath-school connected with the Chapel was kept up during the whole summer. — We are glad to see Christians & philanthropists so vigorously engaged in this work, in this great city, for certainly there is no place where there is more need of it. — With a population of 100.000 says their last report there are not Protestant churches enough to hold 6.000. The New Orleans Port society, Lawthrop, resolved to build two churches for the accommodation of Seamen, and all others who can be induced to attend, located in such places as will be agreeable both to seamen & citizens. — The greatest obstacle however in the way of the seaman's cause is the amazing prevalence of intemperance. Great exertions have been made to procure temperance boarding houses for seamen but without success. The next efforts of the society will therefore be to erect a Sailors home. There is no doubt but that such a house would be well supported. There is always a large number of seamen who would gladly seek such a place if one could be found. The only difficulty is in raising funds to erect such a building. As it is now the sailor cannot find a single decent boarding house within a convenient distance of the shipping. Dr. Barton has given us some idea of the amount of intemperance in N. O. in his statistics in which he tells us that in 1835 there were 801 grog-shops licensed for selling ardent spirits & since that time the number has rather increased than diminished. — Houses enough says the report, if they were placed so as to touch each other, to extend not less than 8 miles. And the amount paid out every year for alcoholic poison, according to the estimate of Dr. Barton is no less than $6.884.800 !!! Well may the report call it a city of drunkeries & drunkenness. Could temperance houses be established for sailors hundred of these houses of iniquity would have to be closed; especially on the Levee where (the report says) for a distance of nearly 3 miles every 3 or 4th door is a grog-shop for sailors. The Rev. H. Loomis has laboured as Chaplain here for about a year & a half & still continues with apparently much good

Atlantic Coast.

All the large ports, from N. Orleans to Portland, are engaged more or less, in the cause of Seamen. Much good, through the blessing of God, has been effected by the labours of their Chaplains, who are supported, for the most part, by the port Societies. But time will not allow us to go into detale. Several of these Stations have received special tokens of Divine favour, - Especially at Boston they have had occasion to rejoice in the manifestations of the Holy Spirit in the conversion of Souls. At Baltimore, the Seamens cause seems to have received a new impulse. The Society in that City support a Chaplain at an expence of about $900. per annum. The Baltimore Marine Bible Society, has been reorganized within the past year. Also another Society has been formed, for the relief of Seamen's widows, and Orphan children. —

Your Committe however, are at a loss to know, what the Chaplain means, when he says, that he has introduced the Ordinances of Baptism, & the Lords supper, upon anti-Sectarian principles. From other sources, we gather, that he Babtizes and administers the Supper to every one wishing it, asking no questions, asking no question, and having no organized Church. This indeed looks like anti-sectarian, and we should think anti-Christian too, so far at least, as it is the duty of all that love the Lord Jesus, to maintain a visible Church in the world. — During the year ending with their last annual Report, 17 have been added to the Mariners Church. Since that time, they have also experienced the out-pouring of the Spirit. —

The annual Reports of these Local Societies, give us cheering information, of the growing interest which the community seem to feel in behalf of Seamen. — The Societies of Portland, Newburyport, New-Bedford, and Providence, have manifested a noble spirit, by their promptness in affording aid to the Societies Chaplains. During the past year, which has been one of such general commercial distress, the people of Providena resolved, that whatever other operations might be suspended, the cause of benevolence must not be permited to languish. — That whatever other institutions might stop payment, it would never do for those whose Capital Consisted in

the boundless love of God, and whose vaults were overflowing with benevolence & love, to close their doors, to the wants of their fellowmen. The result has been, that a large and commodious building has been neatly fitted up called the Seaman Temperance House, where the Sailor can find a home, in which he will not be pilched of his wages by those unprincipled Crimps, who prowl about the wharfs in quest of prey; — and where he can avoid those allurements to vice, which are so abundant in the Grog-Shops where before, he was compelled to seek lodgings. —

The object of your Committee includes not those only who go down to the sea in ships but those also who do business on our inland waters the number of persons engaged on our inland waters according to the best estimate that can be made since not vary much from 90.000

This important Class of men are scattered over the whole extent of our country. Every Lake River & Canal. teems with life and every navigable stream floats upon its bosom multitudes of busy seekers after this worlds goods. To promote the Spiritual good of this important Class of individuals the American Bethel Society was formed about 2 yrs. since. During the past year they have published their first annual report. It says. "The Labors of the Society have been both attended with difficulties and crowned with success. The difficulties common to a new enterprise and the embarrassment peculiar to the past year have been experienced. But the success of the cause and the evident good which has

results from the labors of the Society. Call for enlightened gratitude to God and afford abundant encouragement for the continuation of their labor. The number of regular stations occupied & sustained either by this society or by local societies is 7. These are Troy Schenectada. Utica. Albany. Rochester & Cleveland. Each of these except Schenectada has a house of worship especially for boatmen. At numerous other places they have partial establishments consisting of a depository of Bibles Tracts & a Library provided for the benefit of watermen The principle obstacle in the way of doing good to this class of men exists in the fact that with them the Sabbath is almost totally abolished. Of what benefit is it to establish Churches along the line of our Canals when the Boatmen are not permitted to stop and attend them. It has been stated as an undeniable fact that the greater portion of these 90.000. men employed in our inland waters do not enjoy the privileges of the Gospel ordinances. such as the Sabbath & the preaching of the word no more than the heathen of India. To a great extent this is too true. Though we are inclined to think not to so great an extent as some of their agents represent. Much has been done of late to better their condition

Christian merchants are beginning to consider this matter in its true light. Many think that business can be carried on without violating the Sabbath. A noble example was set in the summer of 1836 by the owners of one of the lines of boats, on the Erie Canal, which ran between Albany and Buffalo.

In the spring, when navigation opened, this line advertised to run every day except sunday. As soon as the proprietors of the other lines saw that this line was determined to live up to this principle, they came and wished to enter into a mutual compact; on this condition, ~~they~~ that neither of them should employ runners, and that at the close of the season a full account should be made out of each one's profits: and if the Sabbath-keeping line had made more than the others, the surplus should be divided equally among the several lines; ~~but~~ and if the other should make more, a like rule was to be observed. The Sabbath-keeping company acceded to the proposals of the others, with one exception; viz. that if the others made more than they did, they would receive none of the surplus; for that would be equivalent to running the boat on the sabbath themselves.

The result was, that, that line which regarded the Sabbath made several hundred dollars the most; and paid it over to the other lines,

thus showing conclusively that there is a positive gain: even in a pecuniary point of view, by resting one day in seven.

Foreign Societies

Of these time will allow us to mention only one. The British and Foreign Sailors Society. This is one of the oldest institutions of the kind, for the benefit of seamen. The labours of this society have been chiefly, though not exclusively, confined to the British Isles; and especially to the port of London.

According to the last report of the society there are not less than 20,000 seamen in the port of London constantly. We quote a few sentences from that report. "The chief means used by the society for the moral improvement of the maratime population is preaching the Gospel."

"By the Thames agency, 12 preachers were constantly and systematically engaged in this work; Besides the regular services in the Chapel, from 14 to 18 Bethel meetings were held on board vessels in the river weekly."

The sailor's Library by which religious instruction is furnished to seamen in the utmost region of the globe, now, contains little less than 4,000 volumes — 20.000 pamphlets, and 100.000. temperance, and religious tracts.

During the past year 57 ships going to foreign ports have been furnished with loan libraries.

This last feature of the British and Foreign sailors society, seems so admirably adapted to benefit seamen, that your committee cannot refrain from expressing their wish that it might be adopted by the friend of seamen in this country.

Of what incalculable benefit would it be, if a few volums, like the bound volums of the American Tract Society, could be placed in every whale ship, that sails from our ports.

The expense of putting half a dozen volums into each ship, would not be more than the support of one Chaplain for a year: and if they were to be returned when the ship returned to port, the books would never be idle, but would be circulated from ship to ship where the the living teacher could not go.

And then too; when the vessel was becalmed, or glided quietly before the gentle breeze. so that the sailor was relieved from care; instead of being compelled to sit down to the indulgence of his depraved imagination; or with his mates at the gambling table; he could have other employments better suited to his noble character, and calculated to do him everlasting good.

In Conclusion we remark, that on account of the Commercial embarrassments of our Country, Considerably less has been Contributed to the funds of the American Seamen's Friend Society for the last two years than formerly. But a principal reason why so a small part of the Charitable Contributions of the public are directed to this benevolent object is, want of information. We believe that upon investigation it would be found true that the very existence of the A. S. F. Soc'y and the efforts that are making in their behalf, are almost entirely unknown. It is an inquiry which each of us should put to our own heart, what is our duty on this subject during the Approaching Vacation? With the feeble means however which the A. S. F. Soc'y has possessed to prosecute its Objects, enough & more than it

enough is Annually effected to Confirm the hope
inspired by the Word of God, that

The praise of the Lord shall ascend from the Ocean,
And the blessing of Heaven the Sailor shall know.
And when the full Chorus shall sweep o'er Creation
And Heaven's high Arch with Hosannas shall ring.
The abundance of Seamen shall join acclamation,
And "glory to God" shall triumphantly sing.

April 30. 1837